Fall/Winter 2018

DESTINY

MAGAZINE

CLOTHED WITH HUMILITY

GOD IS GREATER

BE ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING

EMBRACING
THE CALL
TO TAKE THE TRIP

GROWING YOUR CHURCH IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON

DESTINY IN ISRAEL 2019



Welcome To Your Future

Welcome to Destiny's Covenant Family of Friends and a World of opportunities for you to GROW, SERVE, and SOW in the Kingdom of God. At Destiny you can build lifelong relationships, be challenged to achieve your greatest potential, see the world, serve someone in need and become all that God has called you to become. Experience all of these exciting opportunities among a family where you are loved, accepted and celebrated!

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As a Minister of the Gospel you need a safe place to be challenged, equipped and encouraged to reach your greatest potential. At Destiny we are absolutely committed to meeting those needs. Through Destiny Membership you will find growth opportunities such as: one-on-one coaching, exciting events & conferences, roundtables, internet webinars, strategic relationships, educational travel and mission outreaches. Each designed to grow you into the leader God wants you to be.

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www.destinyleaders.com

A WORD FROM LANDON GALLOWAY



THANK YOU!

The Fall 2018 Enrollment cycle for DLI was the biggest one yet! We enrolled over seventy new students. We could not have done it without the support and the help of our Destiny partners. Thank you for believing in DLI, and for trusting us with the important task of training your leaders.

Fall 2018 was not just a win because of the quantity of students, but also because of the quality of students. I am amazed at the intelligence and engagement of this group of students. I have no doubt that we are training leaders that will change churches that will change communities that will change the world.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the efforts of our great team. Such an enrollment obviously stretched our relatively small team, but each person worked tirelessly to process and enroll the incoming students.

We know that our best days are still ahead. Thank you for buying in, and for all that you do for DLI.

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CLOTHED WITH HUMBELT TY

A KEY TO THE KINGDOM THAT PETER DISCOVERED

DR. PHILLIP BRASSFIELD

One of my favorite personalities in the New Testament is the Apostle Peter, the fisherman from Galilee who was among the first of the disciples to be called by Jesus. One of the reasons I like him is because he is so relatable, so human. I see a lot of myself in Peter. And I'm not talking about his finer qualities. Peter was a run of the mill, everyday fellow. I can relate to that. He was a first century fisherman on the Sea of Galilee, a typically coarse lot - gruff, vulgar, strong willed. To say that he was tempestuous is an understatement. It was Peter who corrected Jesus, even rebuked Him, on the road to Caesarea Philippi when Jesus told the disciples for the very first time that His destiny was the cross of Calvary, not the throne of Jerusalem. It was Peter who refused to let Jesus wash his feet along with the other disciples on the night Jesus was betrayed by Judas. It was Peter who drew a sword and cut off the ear of the High Priest's servant when Jesus was arrested in Gethsemane. Peter was a man's man, full of himself, stubborn to a fault, and determined to have it his own way. Sound like anybody you know?

But something happened to Peter, something dramatic, something out of the ordinary. Somewhere, somehow during the course of his being called to minister, to feed the flock of God, to preach the Gospel, and to suffer persecution, he became a different man. Somewhere, somehow during the many experiences he had, through all the things he saw and heard, he took off the garments of pride and self, and clothed himself in humility, the garments of Christ. Without a doubt in the process of trying to lead, he realized he was not called to lead at all, but to serve and to suffer. He embraced his calling and

was transformed. This transformation placed him at odds with the popular Roman culture of his day, but he was not deterred at all. His allegiance was to the authority of God, period. As he was transformed, he discovered a master key in the kingdom of God, the master key of humility.

It's this Peter who writes to us, as Senior Ministry Leaders, in 1st Peter chapter five from his vast experience and wisdom. He speaks to us through the filter of his personal transformation and the things he had no doubt learned as a result of this process. His instructions and admonition have been a source of guidance and direction for Christian Leaders for 2,000 years. Let's examine several truths from this passage.

First, read 1st Peter 5: 1-7.

V1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: V2 Shepherd the flock of God, which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; V3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; V4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. V5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to [your] elders. Yes, all of [you] be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." V6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, V7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

1. PETER CALLS HIMSELF A FELLOW ELDER. Though he could have claimed superior authority and respect as an Apostle of the Lamb, a rock of the church, one of the three, along with James and John, who were in the inner circle of Jesus' personal ministry. Yet, he chose to classify himself as one of the group, a fellow elder. The elders he is speaking to are probably younger and less experienced, yet, he respected them enough to say that 'I am speaking to you as one of you.' He also affirms them as on par with him. He viewed them as today's leaders worthy of full respect, though they represented different generations, experiences, backgrounds and opinions. By this simple act of humility he also suggests to them that they should guard their need for honor, for position and titles.

2. THEN HE REMINDS US THAT WE ARE SHEPHERDS OF GOD'S

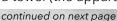
FLOCK. He affirms our role as shepherds, indeed, but of a flock that is not our own. The flock belongs to God. This is underscored by his mention of the Chief Shepherd who will eventually appear and reward faithful shepherds. In this context, shepherds are stewards not owners. This communicates a sense of duty and responsibilities. It says, "the owner has rights, stewards have only responsibilities". He uses a functional term to reinforce this idea that describes the discharge of our responsibility, "Overseers." This word suggests accountability to a higher authority. It suggests that we should never become an authority unto ourselves, seek our own personal gain or benefit through manipulative actions. Consequently, we are to always subject our motives to the examination of the Holy Spirit. Manipulation is exceptionally corrosive to lasting relationships.

3. PETER TEACHES US THAT SUBMISSION IS THE SOLUTION.

Having a heart (posture) of deference and submission is the key to disarming selfish agendas and motives. It is the disrobing of the glory of self, the uncovering of the flesh with its self-centered desires and tendencies. Peter had learned that leaders develop and mature best under submission. When we learn through submission, we develop a confidence, security and strength through the process. Therefore we learn to always be looking for a higher authority to which we should submit. Wise lawyers look for legal precedent, successful young leaders listen to the wisdom of the experienced, and students seek the knowledge of the professor. Great leaders refuse to sit on the throne of personal authority and reign through their personal preferences. They are beholden to a greater authority, God.

4. PETER TEACHES US THAT WE SHOULD BE CLOTHED WITH

HUMILITY. Once we have surrendered to the idea of submission to authority and we have disrobed ourselves of the glory of the flesh through the process of submission, we should be clothed with humility. This almost certainly is a personal reflection of a memory Peter had from the night Jesus was betrayed. According to John, Jesus laid aside His garments and wrapped Himself with a towel (the apparel of a slave) and began to wash His disciple's





feet. Wrapping Himself with a towel is almost certainly where the phrase, "clothed with humility" comes from. The word humility means, humbleness of mind. In other words to have a "humble opinion of oneself." This is not having low self-esteem, which is almost always pride in disguise, but rather to esteem oneself as little. Being clothed with humility is to intentionally make yourself low. This happens as a result of surrender, a submission to godly authority and choosing to prefer others above yourself and the interest of the whole before the demands of your personal interest.

5. PETER TEACHES US THAT GOD RESISTS THE PROUD.

Imagine that, God actually assumes a resistant posture toward those who have a haughty attitude and a self-centered perspective. Peter had learned this from experience. He got into trouble when he acted for selfish gain or tried to ensure things were going to be done his way regardless of God's will. He found himself in hot water with God. He says it this way, "God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble."

6. PETER SUGGESTS THAT WE SURRENDER TO GOD'S ULTIMATE AUTHORITY. He calls this ultimate authority the "Mighty hand of God". What is the hand of God? It's the power, moral right, and scope of God's Kingdom rule. To discern its boundaries, ask yourself these questions: Where is God not God? What is beyond God's influence and control? Who has greater power than God? The answers listed in order are: nowhere, nothing, and no one. Therefore the hand of God is the Authority of God. To humble yourself under the mighty hand of God is to surrender and submit to God as the ultimate authority in every area of life and mission.

7. FINALLY, PETER TELLS US THAT WE SHOULD DIVEST OURSELVES OF MENTAL DIVISION CAUSED BY WORRY, OUR

ANXIETIES. When he said, "casting all your care on him, for He cares for you", he is suggesting that we accept the fact that we cannot solve our problems through our own abilities alone. We aren't sufficient in and of ourselves. We don't know enough; we don't have enough. Pride will cause us to wrestle in our minds with the worst possible pressures and potential scenarios, dividing our focus and rendering us paralyzed with fear. Some call it awfulizing (imagining the worst possible situation).

In summary, what do we learn as leaders through this passage written by Peter the renegade turned Apostle? We learn that destructive attitudes driven by pride and self-reliance will always let us down in the end. We learn that self-reliance is an illusion and a deception designed to de-construct the legitimate authority of God. We learn that submission is the solution. It is the disrobing of the glory of the flesh and critical in the process of being clothed with humility. Peter helps us to understand that humility without submission won't work. Humility is the attitude but submission is the resulting action. We learn that humility will position us to receive the grace of God, the help of God and the strength of God.

Humility and Submission are the master keys that open the doors of greatness in the Kingdom. As Christian leaders we must always turn to God as our ultimate authority to find His protection, provision, and blessing. Our humility will unlock great doors of Kingdom power in our lives.



IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR DESTINY MEMBERSHIP

Destiny Ministries commissions credentialed ministers to perform all duties of a Christian Minister as provided by Holy Scriptures, under the direction of The Holy Spirit and in accordance with State, Federal and International Law. Our expectation is that credentialed ministers will conduct themselves with the absolute highest standards of ethical excellence and Christian integrity in all matters.

GENERAL LICENSE

This level of membership credential is the entry level of General License to practice Christian ministry. All ministers entering the Destiny Family must serve for one year at this credential level unless transferring an approved, existing License from a recognized Ecclesiastical organization. Fees: \$50 Annual Certification Fee, and a suggested monthly offering of 3% of personal tithe.

ORDINATION

This level of membership credential is the advanced level of Ordained Minister of the Gospel. This credential is reserved for those who are known to have a proven ministry, excellent reputation and have demonstrated the character of Christ with substantial experience under supervision of Spiritual authority. Fees: \$75 Annual Certification Fee, and a suggested monthly offering of 3% of personal tithe.

AFFILIATED MEMBERSHIP

This level of membership is for those with existing ministry credentials from a recognized Ecclesiastical organization who desire to be affiliated with the Destiny Church and Minister's Network, but do not need ministry credentials. Fees: \$50 Annual Affiliation Fee, and a suggested monthly offering of 3% of personal tithe.

AFFILIATED CHURCH 501(C)3 MEMBERSHIP

This level of membership is for the local church to operate as a church affiliate of the Destiny Church and Minister's Network. This level of membership provides covering through Destiny's group tax exempt status under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Fees: \$100 Annual Affiliation Fee, and a suggested monthly offering of 3% of the local church's operating budget.

AFFILIATED CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

This level of membership is for those churches that have their own tax exempt status but desire affiliation with the Destiny Church and Minister's Network. Fees: \$100 Annual Affiliation Fee, and a suggested monthly offering of 3% of the local church's operating budget.

GODIS GREATER

PASTOR LANDON GALLOWAY

Most leaders can relate well to the life of Moses. God called him from birth to do a great work, and then used every circumstance in his difficult life to prepare him for that work. He was raised in Pharaoh's palace by an Israelite mother, giving him the best that both the Egyptian and the Israelite worlds had to offer. He learned Israel's story, the story of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This would give him a passion to see the deliverance of his people so that they could live out the promises that God made to the Patriarchs. His secular education and his time in the palace taught him about governance and leadership. His exile to the desert in Midian taught him the necessary skills that it would take to survive during Israel's wilderness years. Though he had no way of knowing it at the time, God was using Moses' every experience to prepare him for the future. Looking back on my own life, I marvel at how God has used both the ordinary and extraordinary circumstances of my life to further His purposes.

I would like to focus on one particularly poignant moment in the story of Moses that speaks to leaders. While wandering in the Midianite desert, Moses received a word from the Lord that would forever alter his destiny and the destiny of the Israelites. It was God's will that His people be set free, and He intended to use Moses to secure that freedom. The details of the story are familiar: a burning bush, a booming voice, and a divine revelation. Moses was initially insecure and felt ill-equipped for the task, but God assured him that He would go with Moses. The deliverance of Israel would be wrought by the power of God, not by the abilities of Moses.

First of all, we must acknowledge the courage of Moses. Pharaoh was thought to be a god, directly descended from Amon-Ra, the Sun God. An inscription by a Pharaoh on an ancient Egyptian temple reads: "I am that which was, and is, and shall be, and no man has lifted my veil." Moses seems to have overcome his initial insecurity, journeys to Egypt, looks the most powerful man in the world in the eye, and confidently insists on his people's freedom. If you want to experience God's best for your life, you must be willing to do bold things. Polite, passive faith will not get you from where you are to where you need to be.

Moses relays this word from God: "Let MY people go..." Pharaoh may be their captor, but he is not their owner. The people belong to God. The Psalmist words it well when he says, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in

it (Ps. 24:1)." You can only experience true freedom when you realize that God and God alone is the one who owns you. Nothing and no one has any power or right to control you and to keep you captive. You are no longer a slave to fear or lust or addiction or performance; you are a child of God, a sheep in His pasture, a citizen of His kingdom.

In the abhorrent days of American slavery, freedmen (former slaves who had been granted freedom) had to carry papers with them to show anyone who questioned their freedom. That's why you must carry God's word, whether it's leather-bound, on your smartphone, or hidden in your heart.. to remind yourself and everyone else: I'm free because God's Word says I am free. I believe the cry of God "let my people Go" is still resounding this day. He longs for His people to experience total freedom from everything that is keeping them from experiencing His best for them. As leaders, we are to speak boldly to those experiencing bondage and remind them that they belong to God and should no longer willingly subject themselves to those things from which they have ALREADY been set free.

In light of the supernatural phenomena surrounding the call and the bold re-assurance that Yahweh made to Moses, one would expect Pharaoh's reaction to Moses' demand to be much different. God spoke it. God promised it. Thus, Pharaoh should immediately relent and give into the inevitable will of God. However, as we all know, the story does resolve so easily. Moses entered the court of Pharaoh and boomed: "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness (Ex 5:1)." The Egyptian monarch sneered: "Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, and moreover, I will not let Israel go (Ex. 5:2)." In Pharaoh's mind, he is a god and ancient Egypt has at least 80 deities. He has checked the mental registry of the myriad of gods, and can't find a "Yahweh" or "Adonai" anywhere. Don't worry- Pharaoh will get real familiar with the God of Israel in the very near future.

Not only does Pharaoh refuse to let the people go, he actually makes their current situation harder. He presumes that they have too much free time since they are meeting and dreaming about freedom and increases their work load. Straws were necessary to make bricks (archaeologists have discovered bricks made of straw in ancient Egypt confirming the accuracy of the Bible here). The Israelites

had previously been given straw to make bricks. Pharaoh now commands that they find their own straw, but still requires them to make the same amount of bricks. This leads us to another difficult truth-Sometimes, it gets worse before it gets better. The enemy doesn't want you or your people to go free, so he will attack your family, your marriage, or your health. He will do whatever he has to do to distract you from God's plan for your life. He knows if he can get you focused on your pain that you will forget your promise.

This interchange sets the scene for an epic battle of wills. It is God's will for Israel to go free. It is Pharaoh's will that they stay. Which "god" will prevail? Will it be the Yahweh of Israel, or the seemingly omnipotent Pharaoh of Egypt?

As you are likely aware, God responds to Pharaoh's obstinance with the Ten Plagues. What you may not be aware of, however, is that each of the plagues were direct affronts on the Egyptian Pantheon. God prepares us for this truth when He proclaims: "Against all gods I will display judgment (Ex. 12:12)." In other words, there is something bigger going on here than initially meets the eye. This is not simply God finding a way to let his people go. This was a showdown between Israel's God and the god of their captors.

In the first plague, God turned the water of the Nile to blood. This is a fitting first strike for the Nile was the heart of Egypt. The Nile was worshiped as the bloodstream of the chief Egyptian God, Osiris. Take that, Osiris. Israel's God can literally turn your "bloodstream" into blood.

In the second plague, frogs were released throughout the land. When God withdrew the plague, the frogs died and were piled in heaps. Frogs were sacred animals to the Egyptians, and killing a frog was a capital offense. Frogs were associated with Heket, the god of fertility. But, Heket is unable to control the number of frogs or protect

the thousands that are killed. Israel's God is greater than Heket.

This pattern continues. Geb, the god of the earth, couldn't stop the dust being turned into gnats. The god Khebri was a beetle but couldn't stop the invasion of insects. Hathor, the cow-god, was believed to have nursed the Pharoahs when they were infants, but she is powerless to stop the disease that kills the livestock. The Egyptian god of healing, Imhotep, couldn't prevent boils. Nut, the goddess of the Sky, couldn't stop the hail. Osiris, the god of agriculture, couldn't prevent the damage of the locusts. Amon-Ra, the sun god and believed to be the Father of the Pharaoh, can't stop the darkness.

These aren't just interesting facts that will help you defeat your opponents in Bible Trivia. They are tangible reminders that our God is greater; our God is bigger; our God is more than capable to deliver us. Opposition will come. The temptation to compromise will come. But, you must remember that God has no rivals. God has no equals. There is no one beside Him and there is no one besides Him.

Thus the Exodus story is a narrative that confirms the words of the Prophet Isaiah: "I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the Lord, who does all these things (Is. 45:5-7)."

Whether you are fighting to save your marriage, to take your city, or to grow your church, you need to know that you serve a God who is infinitely greater than the forces that wish to keep you captive. The Ten Plagues were designed for Israel to know, for Egypt to know, and for YOU to know that we serve a God who is more than able to deliver His children. Your captor may seem strong, but God is stronger.



GROWING YOUR CHURCH IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON

5 WAYS TO CONNECT WITH NEW PEOPLE

- 1. STRATEGIZE WAYS TO MEET NEW PEOPLE. Often churches and ministries stall in growth because they fail to have a strategic plan for meeting new people. Creating new relationships is the absolute key to growing your church or ministry. The holiday season is an amazing opportunity to connect with new people. Here are a few ideas to get you started: the obvious of course are Christmas parties. They are going on everywhere. This year make a point to get the names and contact information of the new people you meet during the parties you host or attend. Be subtle for sure but, assert yourself a little. You might be surprised how people will respond positively if you come right out and say, "We are excited to make new friends this holiday season. Tell me more about yourself." Host a community wide church party. People come to these things. Encourage your members to bring a friend and have special door prizes for those new to the gathering. Make being new a celebration, fun and communicate value to those who attend.
- **2. PROVIDE SEASONAL SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY.** As the salt and light of the world, the church is to be visible and influential in the community. This holiday season, find ways for your church or ministry to be engaged in the motion of the community. Find an event at which the church can serve. Offer free gift wrapping services or host a parents' night out and provide free child care so parents can have a night to Christmas shop without the kids.
- **3. REALIZE THAT THE CHRISTMAS STORY IS THE ANSWER TO THE GREATEST QUESTIONS OF LIFE.** Answer the questions people are asking. Here relevance is king. The Gospel is relevant to every generation but it's our responsibly to package it in a way that effectively answers the challenges of the culture in which we live and wrap it in a holiday package. Understand the culture, follow the trends and the language of the day, and don't forget technology. People live in cyberspace. Christmas should be a huge celebration of the Gospel as the hope of the world.
- **4. PEOPLE IN THE MARGINS STRUGGLE ESPECIALLY DURING THE HOLIDAYS.** Be a solution to someone's problem. Seventy percent of people come to Christ in times of crisis and personal trauma. If we refuse to be involved in the lives of troubled people we effectively eliminate 70% of our harvest potential. This holiday season get involved with the community in ways that positively impact families. Get your church involved with programs designed to provide gifts for underprivileged children, be a blessing to family shelters, or treatment facilities. Anywhere families are the focus, look for opportunities to serve.
- **5. MAKE YOUR CHURCH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AN OUTREACH FOR NEW PEOPLE.** Christmas services and programs are the second highest event attended by the unchurched, second to Easter. Don't miss the opportunity. During the program have a strategy for clarifying your connecting points. "Answer these questions in a creative way. What is the church's "why". Make sure your values are embedded in your event. Help new people see that Jesus Christ and His church can add peace, meaning, significance and great value to their lives. Make them feel welcome and help them see themselves in the picture of the church.

Don't let this Christmas be just another holiday for your church. Make it count. Give it the attention and effort to make it one of the strongest outreach seasons of the year. And watch your church grow as you demonstrate the real reason for the season. Your church will connect with lots of new people and your members will grow as they focus on others!

NEW LIFE AT PROJECT SAMUEL

BRENDEN VOWELL



Have you ever pressed the fast forward button on these modern video players? Usually they have about five or so speeds for fast-forwarding. When you press the

button once, it speeds up twice as fast and then again, it speeds up four times as fast and so on. You try to follow along with the video as you reach the spot you want to stop, but it's so fast and with each level, even faster. If you're not careful, it's all a blur and you have missed it. I feel like this past couple of years has been going by so fast. Three years ago I was single; two years ago I was dating; one year ago I was married and today, I'm a dad! With each addition to my life, it goes by faster and faster. I'm just trying not to miss it.

It was April 2017 and I was on my way home to get married. It was the absolute best moments in my life and it was one of those times someone seemed to have pressed the fast-forward button. God had chosen the perfect person for me. I could not have found a woman more committed to missions and to God on my own. It was one of those things where you look back and see how God had fit it all together so perfectly. Kim and I were married April 15th 2017, and a few weeks later were on our way to Zambia where I would be sharing my home, and family of

the past 9 years, with her. Kim could not have been more accepting of and accepted by the people of Project Samuel. The children were so excited and have really grown to love Kim like an Aunt figure. The workers and house moms enjoy working with her and definitely consider her an improvement in my life.

I have enjoyed building a home with Kim over the last couple of years and yes, even the decorating and paint color selecting. Kim had some opinions as to the red walls and black furniture I had in my room and the bare walls throughout the house. What wife wouldn't upon arriving to a new home 10,000 miles from her friends and family? We got right to work on both the house and the project. We have repainted the house and have added wall decorations and rugs to the floors. The house has storage now and a dining table suitable for guests. The house is a home now and a place we both love to spend our evenings relaxing after a long days work around Project Samuel.

Kim really took to the kids and began working on their education. She has really been able to bring some of the children up multiple levels in their reading and English.

We have a little baby girl now and once again that fast-forward button has been pushed. Alivia is an absolute joy to us as her parents and to the Project Samuel Family. She keeps us busy, as if the project didn't, and she is growing up so fast. She is laughing and





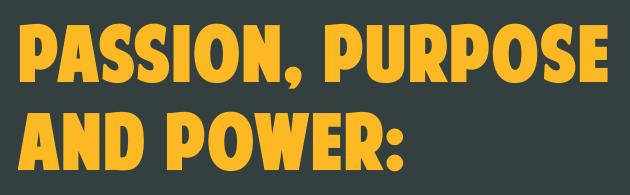


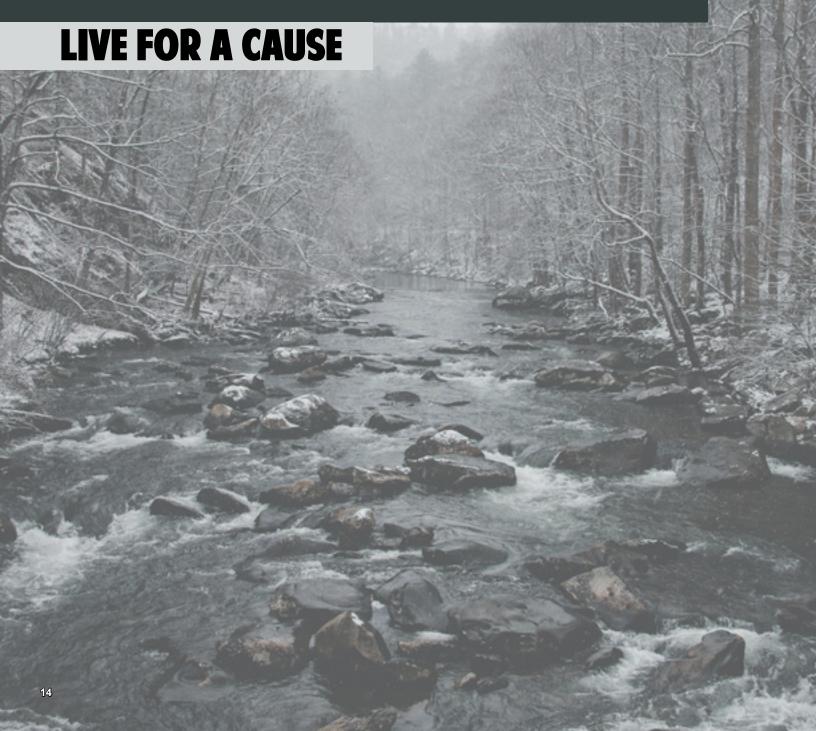
turning over. I assume she will be crawling before long and maybe eating some solid food. Where has the time gone? I didn't think our house could be any more of a home until Alivia was born. Oh how I look forward to coming home and finding her sweet smile after being in town all day. Kim and Alivia are the center of any place I could ever call home and right now that place is Project Samuel, Zambia.

Project Samuel is becoming quite a sight! The buildings are having a fresh coat of paint and the Staff housing is moving further along. We are installing irrigation in the orchard and are fencing the Garden so that we can install proper irrigation there as well. We have put in walking paths that have made moving around the project easier and more aesthetically pleasing. This summer we had over 28 people here from the United States and Canada and they really poured their hearts into our kids. They assisted us with VBS programs and tutoring. They also went back to be ambassadors on behalf of Project Samuel. One family raised the money for a second pump in one of our wells to help with our lack of water supply. Now we can keep up with the water needs here at the project. They also raised the money for us to have a new bus for transporting our kids. Already we have been able to take our kids places that without it we would have been stuck at the project. We will now be able to expand our kids' minds as we explore the world around Project Samuel. The children really take pride in being at Project Samuel and they love helping with all the work that's going on. They also are really enjoying school and many are in the top of their classes. It is so rewarding to see the joy on their faces and it reassures me that we are making an impact in their lives.

I have missed all of you at the annual Destiny Gatherings but I look forward to seeing you in 2019. So much has happened in the last couple of years that has prohibited me from coming. First was my wedding and then was the birth of our first baby. I am so excited about making the trip home to be able to introduce you all to my wife Kim and our baby girl, Alivia. Oh how time is flying by!







DR. PHILLIP BRASSFIELD

Each of us has a river of passion inside. This river produces a flow where we find our sense of purpose and the drive that empowers our motivation. The root word for motivation is motive and today the word motive generally has a negative connotation, but we all have motives. Motive is the strength behind motivation, and without a motive there is no passion.

Discover your God given purpose in life and just do it.... Live for a cause!

You will never discover your purpose without defining your passion. Successful people are driven by something. How do you discern your God given passion? How do you develop your purpose and release the power these create to energize a life of significance?

Everyone wants to be significant, to find the meaning in life. Since the dawn of humanity it has been our pursuit. A life without purpose creates a sense of hopelessness and despair. Knowing and understanding your passion is critical to understanding your purpose in life and in producing the motivation that drives your life. **Your passion is a key to joy!**

Your passion is discerned by determining what is important to you, what excites you. It is dictated by your personal values. And we all have them. Think about it. Spend a few moments in casual conversation with just about anybody and you will hear their passions overflowing out of their heart. It is an expression of what is important to them, what they value. The Scripture says in Matthew 12:34, "for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." Jesus also said in Matthew 6:21 that, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

What you value (what is important to you) will always act as a gatekeeper for your purpose in life.

The cares of life are filled with unimportant

things and they will try to convince us that we must surrender to the demands they make on our lives. This causes us to focus on the **timely instead of the timeless.** When we do this we can sacrifice the eternal on the altar of the immediate and wind up living a life that has little or no lasting impact on our world or those in it. Living in the **important stream**, the meaningful stream of personal values, will produce a flow of power in your life and the lives of those with whom you come into contact. So then we can say...

Passion will reveal your purpose, and your purpose when discovered and developed will release a power for living that is fueled by internal perpetual motivation. I believe that this passion is a gift of God, that it was deposited in you by your Creator. It is your God given purpose, the reason for which you were born, the gift that God deposited in you and meant for you to share, and the gift for which you will give an account to Him. The secret to a life of significance is to learn to live for a purpose greater than oneself. Discovering and fulfilling your purpose is a key to living a life of satisfaction.

LIVE FOR A CAUSE! DISCOVER YOUR GOD GIVEN PURPOSE IN LIFE AND JUST DO IT!

Take these steps today....

- 1. Define your Passion! Passion excites, and it will produce **Joy.**
- 2. Discover and develop your Purpose! Purpose satisfies, and it will produce a sense of **Satisfaction.**

RELEASE THE POWER TO LIVE!



REAL CHURCH

CLEARWATER, FLORIDA



Today is Monday, October 29, 2018. As I sit down to write this, I am still reeling from all that God is doing. Yesterday we baptized 17 people in the beach near Clearwater, Florida!

Stephanie, one of the 17, was an atheist just 6 months ago. She was sitting in a coffee shop studying for her exams to be a Nurse Practitioner. Little did she know, her life would begin to change forever that day. Our team rented that very coffee shop for an event that would invite people to be a part of a new church plant, Real Church. As we were setting up the sound system, I remember walking over to Stephanie and inviting her to stay and offering her a free coffee drink. The event started and finished with Stephanie still staring into her nursing books earbuds in her ears, pretending not to listen.

At our next event, surprisingly, Stephanie showed up with her boyfriend. I got to meet and talk with them both. At the following event, Stephanie gave her life to Jesus -- atheist to Christ follower! She has since become an avid reader of the Bible. She is so passionate about her relationship with Jesus. At the beach baptism, her boyfriend came over in tears and prayed for me thanking God for what this ministry means to him and Stephanie.



This is Real Church -- real people, living real lives, for a real Jesus, and having a real good time. Real Church will do whatever it takes for people to know the Love of Jesus and live their God-given purpose.

Two years after God spoke this church into existence and a little over a year after moving to a city where we knew no one, we launched Real Church in Clearwater High School on September 16, 2018. 400 people showed up to our launch services. 16 people gave their lives to Jesus. 10 churches gave financially to ensure we had a healthy launch. Many other churches helped to teach and train us to be effective. One church 450 miles away sent a team of 5 leaders to one of our practice services to help us grow, then sent a team of 10 people to help serve on launch day! I love when the Body of Christ comes together to grow.

Jesus prayed in John 17:20-21, "...I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

Jesus prayed that we would be one, so that the world may believe. Therefore, unity is the most effective form of evangelism. More than ever, we need churches coming together to plant churches **TOGETHER** so that the world may know God.













We are a church that will plant churches. We gather to send. Question: Who has God sent to you, because He wants to send them through you? The example of churches coming together to plant churches is not an anomaly. God is doing this more and more. I am thankful God chose to use Destiny Ministries as a part of the beginning of Real Church.

The mission of Real Church is to Engage, Equip, and Empower.

ENGAGE THE CULTURE with the Love of Jesus

EQUIP THE BELIEVER to engage the culture with the Love of Jesus

EMPOWER THE READY to live their God-given purpose

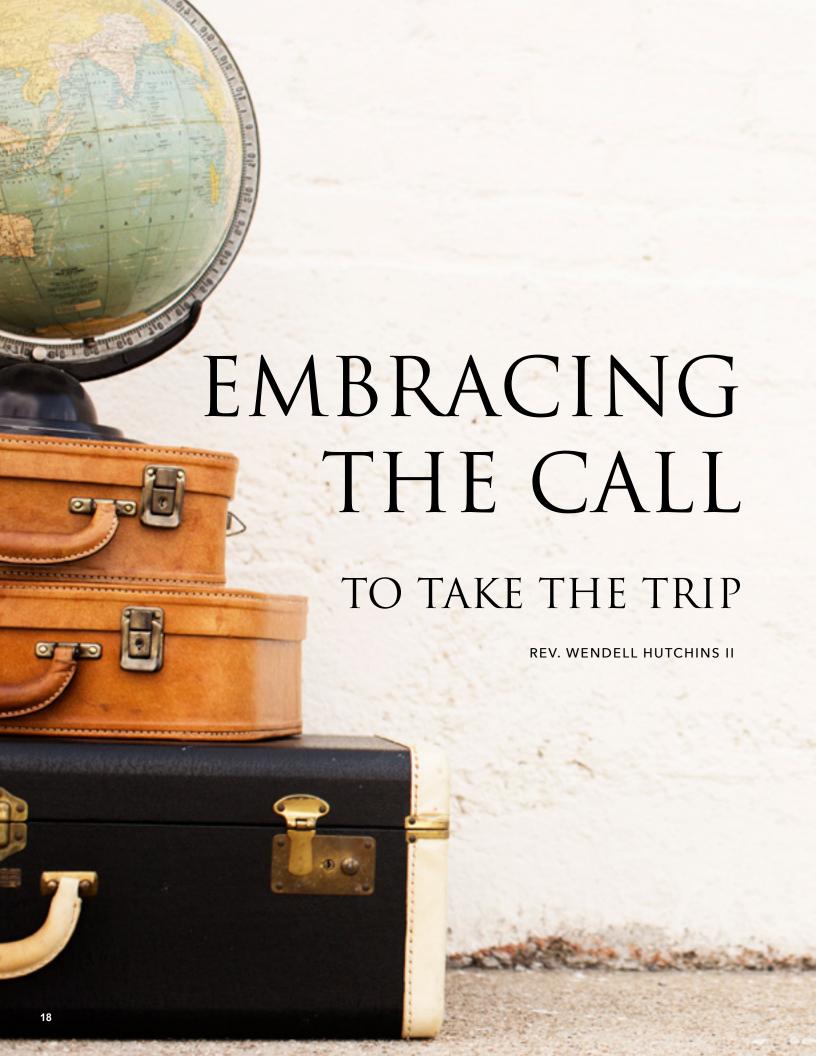
In the weeks following launch I have seen God setting a foundation from which we will grow. It gives me great joy to see new believers so passionate about church and about being Jesus to their world. We are a baby church. Please pray for us. Your prayers are powerful and effective. We have yet to become fully self-sustaining. If God lays it on your heart to sow into us financially, you can do that at www.realchurch.us. If you have leaders that want to experience what it means to be a part of a portable church plant before launching a church of their own, send them. My greatest passion is laying down my life so those who God sends can live out their dreams.

Courtney and I specifically want to say thank you to Riverpark Church. Pastors Mark and Marcus Briggs and family, thank you for believing in us to sow into our church monthly during our build up to launch. You played a vital role in ensuring a successful launch.

I also want to say a special thank you to Dr. Phil Brassfield. You, sir, are truly a pastor's pastor. I have learned so much from you, and I look forward to continuing to learn from you. Thank you for sowing wisdom into me, and for teaching my family about the importance of rest. Your ministry sowing into my family has kept and is keeping my family physically, emotionally and spiritually healthy as we lead this church.

It gives me great joy to also honor my father and mother, Pastor David Philips Sr., Fay Philips, and the leaders of River of Life Church. This church would not have happened and could not continue without your faithful obedience to multiply. Real Church is changing lives because of your leadership, your example, and your radical generosity. I pray that we follow your example in multiplying churches and leaders throughout the world.

Destiny Ministries, we love you. Thank you for partnering with us to change lives for eternity. The best is yet to come!



To the casual observer, the complexities of this trip and the challenges it presents do not appear to have significant value. Instead, it is often viewed as a journey requiring considerable effort without hope of substantial gains.

Some leaders believed this trip to be of no consequence to their ministry at all, and as a result, they've never taken the time to investigate its claims, study its topography, plot its course, or seek its destiny- reward. They never embarked upon the trip! However, history is replete with storied leaders who did choose make this missiological adventure a necessary one. From Torah to New Testament, from the Midrash to Maimonides, this trip is the single, most extraordinary journey all great leaders take for their personal development; an expedition they choose to make because they desire to leave legacies of faith and testimonies of lives well lived.

Without a doubt, this is the trip that offers the greatest thrills and the most difficult challenges. It has proven, time and again, to be the great test of warriors and statesmen, kings and priests. This trip is the ellipses of our life's story, one in which time will define our best intentions; hyphen capturing culmination of our great acts of daring faith; a dash defining our heroism to labor in the twilight and intercede through the night. What is this trip, you ask? It is the journey from anonymity to institutional favor.

At once our ears ring, our hearts sing, and our spirits soar when we hear the news that there is a dimension of favor available to us that lies beyond the regions of our meritorious struggles and daily oppositions. Our hearts yearn with new hope for that universe of ministry that is beyond the gravity of our local needs, beyond the pale of our too-little-help and not-enough-resources.

Today, our culture is increasingly secular. It's sobering to consider that most of our audiences have their perspectives shaped by the media they consume rather than by the Word of God we teach and preach.

Today, while we're witnessing the rapid rise of hatred and hostility toward Christians in America, Europe, Asia, and Africa, I'm reminded of Abraham of Ur. Abraham's culture was not too dissimilar.

Abraham, the idol-smashing iconoclast, grew up in a culture of idolatry. As a lad, his father *Terah* taught him that idols were the guiding force of his life and his life would be dependent upon the goodwill of these clay gods. Abraham refused. He refused to place his beliefs in the deadpan stare and lifeless lips of his father's statute-gods.

Abraham believed that there was a Creator who ruled; One God who ordered and directed all His creation. He refused to worship Nanna, the supreme ruler among a pantheon of Mesopotamian gods. When Abraham refused to acquiesce to his people's idolatry, he clashed with his culture and was condemned because of his faith.

While it is true that Secularism isn't demanding of us a religious devotion to clay statuaries and a moon god, it is demanding our culture to pledge allegiance and dedication to human intellect, reason, and logic; rejecting all other teachings that include a supernatural view on reality.

This mindset is so pervasive that now, we are doing life with a significant number of people who are far more comfortable relying on their abilities than they are in relying on the power of God. In fact, many in our generation have equated divine favor with personal ability. While it is true that we value working hard and we celebrate great aspirations and a person's freedom to pursue personal goals, we make a tragic mistake when we begin to believe that our 'greatest asset' is our personal ability.

Abraham, standing in the vestibule of anonymity, pulls back the veil of mystery to show us what it is for a man to abandon the gods of his culture to pursue the Presence of the Echad; to leave the many to hear the voice of the One. To journey from societal norms to self-aware. Abraham pursued God and sought God in his life. Abraham's circuitous route led him to discover God and His great work; his hunger for God

continued on page 19

chauffeured him on his way to find the Way of Truth! His pursuit of God's Presence led him through trial and tribulation, suffering and shame, tragedy and heartache - his hunger for God led him in everything.

After years of pursuing God in the star-studded hall of anonymity, God introduces Himself to Abraham with these words, "Get thee out of thy country..." Gen. 12:1. It's interesting to note that the first words God spoke to Abraham are translated from Hebrew "Go for yourself." In the introduction of Abraham's call was the conclusion of his destiny by the inclusion of his trip. Go! Go for yourself.

Abraham teaches us that our pursuit of God is more than an intellectual exercise, it is a perpetual movement of the heart and spirit of man after His God. God's Presence fuels our passion, our passion fuels our worship, our worship fuels our lifestyle, our lifestyle fuels our pursuit of His presence. Our destiny is a continuum of personal growth and spiritual conquest, personal devotion, and selfless service.

In 2018, we enjoy the finest church planting systems, church growth systems, and church finance systems in the known world. Today, many Destiny pastors and leaders are blessed to lead churches who are employing these premiere church-planting and growth strategies and services, and as a result, your impact for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ has been remarkable. Destiny leaders are gifted with favor, and as a result, we increasingly see our pathways to doing "Ministry with Excellence" checkered with the memorials erected from God-

granted achievements and Godgiven victories. Destiny leaders demonstrate a unique genius, never tiring to discover new and relevant ways to present Jesus. Yet, in all these fantastic moments of victory and momentum, we're admonished by the Apostle to take the utmost care not to lose the marvel of time spent pursuing God's Presence. Our "first love" motive vitalizes our passion for our mission, our "first love" motive sanctuaries the integrity of our values, our "first love" motive conveys clarity to our strategies, and our "first love" motive simplifies our measures.

The ease of being in His Presence, gazing upon His royal crown, hearing His affirming voice, feeling Histender touch, receiving His outpouring of love, giving and receiving His glory...until... our prayer becomes our station, our posture, our definition, our unhindered adoration, and our GO! The splendor of living a life where the unobstructed flow of His will downloads into our lives and results in more than occupying regions of "normalcy," it results in living a life of communion until that life becomes a continuum of moving from anonymity to institutional favor with God in every sphere of life. We soon discover the power of the truth, "we are in the world, but not of it." By taking this trip, we discover our emergence from what-has-been to "go-for-yourself." We discover "dominion," we find "kingdom," and we realize the "favor" that is in "go for yourself."

Make no mistake about it, the challenges of this trip are extremely demanding. It demands allegiance to truth: the truth about movement on one's journey, the truth about the

discovery of one's self, the truth about our love and our desires, the truth about His Grace and our acceptance, the truth about our Stewardship of His gift(s), the truth about our Submission and His crown, the truth about our Honor and His applause, the truth about our Self and His will, the truth about...well, you get the point. It's a never-ending journey. Every mile marker heralds "well done" and "keep going."

There are pastors who enjoy phenomenal success in their public life while struggling to survive secret shame and the private hell of humiliation. Be encouraged. Your freedom to enjoy your life lies in your surrender to your call into...onto... and for yourselves. If you enjoy great achievement and success in one area of your life, I admonish you to keep moving, keep traveling, keep going forward into the regions of the unknown until you discover the next, new adventure of "self" to conquer. You've been called out of Ur to your city, a city you've not yet seen, a city whose Builder and Maker is God. Keep moving. Stay focused. Enjoy The Challenge. Live the dream and discover God's next great thing for YOU! Be encouraged, take the TRIP!



Rev. Wendell E. Hutchins II is the husband of Ann, father to Colton and Morgan, and grandfather

to Remington Haynes and Olivia Grace. Wendell Hutchins II is the founding pastor of the Church of Champions in Houston, Texas and the spiritual son of Rev. C. L. Dees and Rev. Jabo Green. Today, he serves numerous organizations and churches throughout North America.



1. Visit a living nativity.

- 2. Bake Christmas cookies for first responders.
- 3. Have a gingerbread house decorating contest.
- 4. Go caroling at a retirement center or nursing home.
- 5. HAVE A CHRISTMAS MOVIE MARATHON.
- 6. READ THE CHRISTMAS STORY.
- 7. Bake and decorate a birthday cake for Jesus.
- 8. BUY GIFTS FOR A CHILD ON THE ANGEL TREE.
- 9. Listen to Christmas music while looking at Christmas lights.
- 10. Attend a candlelight service.

Be Anxious For Nothing

3 Biblical Strategies for Overcoming Anxiety



GRANT BOWMAN

e are living in an age that some have referred to as, the age of anxiety. It seems that worry has become the watchword of the day. Ask seemingly anyone and they can provide you a laundry list of things that they are currently worried about. For a recent sermon, I made a list of things that I had personally worried about in the last month. I stopped counting at 50. Health, the economy, family challenges, a new job, our government and foreign relations, an ailing friend, and on, and on. This was by no means an exhaustive list, but the very act of compiling it was itself exhausting. It seems that we have a never-ending supply of issues, both large and small, to be concerned about... According to a recent survey released by the American Psychiatric Association, Americans are more anxious today than they were a year ago, with 39 percent of people surveyed reporting feeling more anxiety, compared to just 19 percent in 2017. The survey found Americans are mostly anxious about five major things: health, safety, finances, politics and relationships. Sixty-eight percent of Americans are extremely or somewhat anxious about both keeping themselves or their families safe and their health. Just less, 67 percent, worry about paying their bills or expenses. A little more than half, 56 percent, worry about the impact of politics on their daily lives, and 48 percent are extremely

or somewhat anxious about relationships with family, friends and coworkers. Without getting bogged down in the details, suffice to say we are an anxious people.

I am constantly amazed at the conundrums my mind can conjure that only ever play out in my mind, and never in real life. Mark Twain once said, "I have worried over a great many things in life, the most of which never happened." We all have been there. We fret, lose sleep, and even stress-eat, only to have that thing never come to pass. We passed the test and finished the course. Forgiveness was offered, and a friendship was saved. The deposit was just in time, and our bank account stayed in the black. You would think that we would learn from our wasted mental effort, but like our favorite shampoo instructions, we rinse and repeat.

In his book, *Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World*, Max Lucado admits, "The news about our anxiety is enough to make us anxious." However, he invites readers to study Philippians 4:6-7, the most highlighted passage of any book on the planet, according to Amazon.com: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will



guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Here are 3 suggestions for dealing with anxiety from a biblical perspective.

1. ASK THE LORD TO GUARD YOUR

MIND. Romans 12:2 states, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will." Our minds are the seat of our intellect and reasoning, and where all our behaviors are birthed. The objects of our consistent thinking will determine how the months and years of our lives play out. For us, everything starts in the mind. This is why the writer of Romans challenges us to renew our minds, so that we will be able to know and produce His will in our lives. Because we are human anxiety will come, but through our mind's continual renewal, we will not be paralyzed by it.

2. DECLARE THE WORD OF GOD OVER

YOUR MIND. Last year, a friend gave me a list of daily scriptural declarations to include in morning routine. It was a simple addition that only added a few minutes, so I did not argue. After a few weeks I noticed that I had less anxiety and my faith was increased. Instead of hearing the voice of anxiety, His clear words speak to me. If you are not declaring His Word over

your mind daily, I challenge you to start today.

3. REPLACE SELF-FOCUSED THINKING WITH A GOD-FOCUSED MINDSET.

After asking the Lord to guard your mind and daily declaring the Word of God over your mind, you have a choice to make. Will I train my mind to focus on the things of God, or will I let it be consumed by anxiety and the cares of this world? Let me be clear, this takes work. It's not easy. If I don't take decisive action to set my mind on Jesus Christ, then my mind can wonder into places it should not go, and that's never good. Paul admonishes us in Colossians 3:2 to "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."

Our greatest challenge is often to recognize that worry strips us of our faith in a God that has our greatest interest at heart (Romans 8:28). Trusting in the Creator isn't a part-time activity; either we trust Him, or we don't. God's Word challenges us to "Trust in the Lord with all our hearts and lean not on our own understanding; in all our ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight (Proverbs 3:5-6, NIV)." When the winding road of life begins to weigh on you and you are overwhelmed with fear for what lies ahead, I challenge you to throw your energy into trusting Him to straighten the path before you!

JOIN DESTINY IN ISRAEL NOVEMBER 6-13, 2019

TEXT **ISRAEL** TO **501.238.6629**OR VISIT **DESTINYLEADERS.COM/ISRAEL**FOR MORE INFORMATION.









THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

JEANNIE ABBOTT

Why would anyone want to go to Israel? Well, let me tell you why! It is the most awesome trip you will ever take in your lifetime! I've been to Israel twice and plan to go again. You see, once you've been there you will always want to go back again and again! It's home!

Destiny is planning a trip in November of 2019 and I personally want to invite you to join us. We will be taking a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee where you can envision Jesus walking on the Sea and Peter walking out to him, and look out at the shoreline knowing somewhere Jesus offered breakfast to the disciples after His resurrection. We will visit the Mount of Beatitudes, Caesarea Philippi where Peter acknowledged Jesus as the Son of God and many other places where Jesus walked. At the bottom of Mount Gilboa is the Spring of Harod and Gideon's Cave where Gideon chose his 300 warriors to battle against the Midianites. We'll visit Nazareth Village where you will see a living presentation of the life, times, and teachings of Jesus. While in the Galilee area, there will be an opportunity for you to be baptized in the Jordan River.

Going south of Jerusalem you will see Masada, Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, and En Gedi where David hid in a cave from Saul and cut the hem of his garment. En Gedi was one of the top highlights for me as we walked up a trail to the waterfalls. It truly is an oasis in the middle of the desert. While in the Dead Sea (Salt Sea) area, take a dip in the salt and mineral-laden waters.

There is so much to see in the city of Jerusalem. Touch a piece of the Temple when you pray at the Western Wall; look over the city of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives; visit the Pool of Bethesda where Jesus healed the paralyzed man; see the Southern Wall Excavations that reveal a first century street and

the massive stones that the Romans pushed down in 70 AD; explore the Southern Steps and Mikvehs. The Israel Museum allows you to see Israel's past history and the Temple Institute gives you a glimpse of the Temple rituals with their display of priestly garments, trumpets, musical instruments and utensils used, etc. We will walk the Via Dolorosa, visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and on to the Garden Tomb where we will have communion together.

Communion has never been the same. As I partake of the elements I see Jesus in the Garden being betrayed and led away to Caiaphas, the high priest, and Peter in the courtyard warming by the fire, denying Jesus. Then I'm aware of Jesus in the dungeon where he was kept until morning when he was handed over to Pilate. Seeing the large pavement of the Roman Praetorium where He was judged and mocked and scourged and after, being led through the streets of Jerusalem to Golgotha and nailed to a cross shedding His blood for you and for me. Oh how precious is the blood of Jesus...what a price He paid that we may be with Him eternally!

As I boarded the plane to return home I realized I was leaving part of my heart there. As we pulled away from the tarmac the tears began to roll down my cheeks, I did not want to leave. After I returned home, the Scriptures blossomed and became alive as I could see those places in my mind.

When you join us on this next journey to Israel be prepared to be in awe, to shed some tears, to have your heart opened to see the great love Jesus has for us, and to never, ever be the same again! I look forward to seeing you in Israel! Shalom, Destiny family!

CELEBRATING 20 GATHERINGS TOGETHER!



SAVE THE DATE
JUNE 11-13TH, 2019



THE AUTHORITY OF TRUTH

DR. PHILLIP BRASSFIELD



We are living in the age of "me". From our selfie filled social media accounts, to the hyper sensitive, constantly offended society that has become a hallmark of our generation. Today, absolute truth has been dismissed as religious

myth, and truth is now subjective, relative. Everyone has an opinion, everyone has a truth, everyone has an agenda and a soapbox, and as a result of technology, the medium to express it to the world. We have all become authorities on everything regardless of whether we know anything about it or not. We have become the, "It seems to me" generation where the highest authority on any subject is self. Interview anyone on the streets about truth and they will acknowledge on one hand what the Bible says, or what science says, or what the empirical facts suggest, but then pivot without the least hesitation and say, but "it seems to me"! The power of their personal opinion has become "their truth", their guiding concept and thus, their authority. Sadly, the authority of self has become the supreme court of the heart of man.

It may seem that this is an exclusively modern day issue, but this attitude is not new at all. In fact, it's very old. It's been around since Lucifer's fall from heaven. We see Lucifer transformed from the "Morning Star" of God's glory to Satan the "Adversary", essentially because he rebelled against the authority of God. By doing so, he denied God's regency (exclusive moral authority to rule) and embraced a subjective philosophy of truth (relativism), a sort of synthetic

truth, and ultimately harbored a revolution in his heart, a dream of ascending above the throne of the Most High. It's pretty clear from the Biblical description that all this was driven by pride. Jesus said in John 8:44 speaking of Satan,

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

From Lucifer's rebellion to today's social and political arguments where truth is inconsequential, it's pretty clear, not much has changed. And while this is the reality of our earthly society, we as men and women of God must not get seduced into the same old trap driven by the same old lie. Truth matters. Not just my truth but THE truth. While my opinions are relative to a variety of different circumstances like my education, my family background, and my experiences, they do not become absolute truth simply because they are real to me.

When the tides of cultural relativism intensify, and the pressure to conform for the sake of relevance and social acceptance floods in, we must hold tightly to the anchor of God's truth. His truth is not subjective, abstract, or a matter of interpretation. It is this truth that has stood the test of time and will provide leaders moral authority to influence the culture back to God.



Enrollment for Spring 2019 is now open. Register today at destinyleadershipinstitute.com.







